



Perry County Food Bank

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“Thank you consists of just eight letters that form two of the most meaningful words in the English vocabulary.”
— Deborah Norville

Happy Thanksgiving!

It's Thanksgiving already and we are pretty well prepared for the rush of clients as the month begins. We have bags prepared with the “supporting characters” for the meal like potatoes, stuffing, and cranberry sauce. We also have roaster chickens, hams, and turkeys in the starring roles for the feast. Thanksgiving is probably the biggest American holiday. The two busiest travel days of the year are the day before Thanksgiving and the Sunday following the big day. For this reason, we try to do the best we can to make Thanksgiving special. Although we haven't been able to provide a turkey for all of our 850+ customers who come in to shop in November, we try to have special alternatives like ham and roasting chickens for the smaller families.

We are so thankful for so many things here at the food bank. One big thank you must go to all of the volunteers who make all facets of the Food Bank operations work smoothly. We have eight distribution sites around the county that distribute food on the third weekend of the month and each of those sites is run by, and staffed by, dedicated volunteers who receive the food, package it in boxes and/or bags and then distribute it to clients who come in. In addition, our operation at New Bloomfield runs on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week. The dedicated volunteers, who come in to help with everything from warehouse work to bagging groceries and taking them to our customer's vehicles, are amazing. Because they have contact with the clients, they not only handle the work involved with running the food bank, but they are all part of customer relations. Many of the people we see show up each month and they get to know our volunteers and see them as friends.

A giant thank you also needs to go out to the countless individuals (including yourself), churches, and organizations that recognize the needs of the hungry in Perry County and then feel led to do something about it. You donate time and money; donate items for the store; do fund raisers and food drives; find out what some of the special needs are of clients and then provide items like Ensure for our clients on special diets; and meet so many of our needs.

All of these people are a special blessing to both of us and to all of our clients as well. It is always amazing to us how our Boss, from Whom all blessings flow, provides for the needs of all of those in need, including the two of us. Like when it looks like we will be short-handed and volunteers “magically” appear to meet our needs. The same happens with food supplies where we are running out of something and then it “magically” goes on sale at a great price. So we are VERY thankful to be working for a great Boss.

In the month of September, we served 1,165 households with 99 of those being new and 2,845 individuals and 293 of those were new. In the month of October, our numbers were 1,243 households with 67 considered new and 3,059 individuals with 173 being new.

As you gather together around the table on Thanksgiving Day, consider setting a place to remember those neighbors who are struggling — most through no fault of their own — to meet the needs of themselves and their families. Above all, be thankful for the many blessing that you enjoy, not the least of which is the meal and the fellowship that you will be sharing with family and friends. Some we serve have neither.

Linda Bates & John Kiner
Co-directors, Perry County Food Bank